



Employers as Guest Speakers

Grades: 11-12
Time: One class period

Introduction

Employer visits are an opportunity for students to meet potential employers and to learn about the occupational opportunities in their communities and surrounding areas. Students will also learn about employer expectations, including educational and training requirements, specific skills, desirable characteristics, and opportunities for advancement in the occupations that the employers represent.

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Ask questions to obtain relevant information about a specific occupation.
- Describe job requirements, desirable characteristics, and the work environment.
- Determine whether a particular occupation matches their career interests

Preparation

Identify employers in your community that will represent a variety of business and career areas such as agriculture, construction, manufacturing, social services, government and law enforcement, etc. If possible, invite employers that will serve as nontraditional role models for students. Invitations should be extended at least four weeks in advance to allow employers flexibility in scheduling. You will also want to decide how long employers will have to give students an overview of their business and job opportunities and for students to ask questions. For example, each employer may have ten minutes to give an overview and ten minutes to answer questions. That way this activity could be completed in two hours.

Strategies

- Assign students the responsibility of arranging for employer visits.
- Have each student prepare in advance one question to ask each employer.
- Provide employers with a list of questions that students may ask during the interview so that they will have time to think about their responses.
- Ask students to volunteer to introduce the speakers to the class.
- Ask employers to explain different occupations within their industry and the training or qualifications an applicant may need for each. Also, ask employers to share what they expect from an employee, what will be asked a job applicant in an interview, and what internships and/or apprenticeships are available.
- Facilitate the discussion between the employers and students, if necessary, to ensure that key points are covered.

Student Evaluation

Has this activity helped you:

1. Learn more about businesses and industries and job opportunities in your community?
2. Become acquainted with potential employers?
3. Identify the skills needed to be successful in the workplace?
4. Clarify your career interests?

What did you like best about this activity?

What did you like least about this activity?

What would you like to change about this activity to make it more enjoyable?